

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 /032 W

----- 054254

R 071520Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1465

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS: PINS, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: IZMIR STUDENT UNREST

1. IZMIR CAMPUSES HAVE ALSO EXPERIENCED SCATTERING OF SMALLER CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN LEFT-WING AND RIGHT-WING STUDENT ACTIVISTS AND ON OCTOBER 19 ONE LARGER LEFT-RIGHT STUDENT CLASH INVOLVING INJURY AND POLICE ACTION, BUT NO EVENTS APPROACHING MAGNITUDE OF RECENT ISTANBUL-ANKARA DISORDERS. UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION SOURCES, HOWEVER, HAVE INDICATED GREATER LEVEL OF STUDENT ACTIVISM (E. G. ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY AMONG STUDENTS,

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MORE STRIDENT CLASSROOM COMPLAINTS ABOUT ACADEMIC SYSTEM-RELATED ISSUES) THAN CHARACTERIZED LAST YEAR'S SCHOOL OPENING. THIS CORROBORATED BY STUDENT DECISION STAGE AEGEAN UNIVERSITY-WIDE BOYCOTT OF CLASSES NOV.4-6, PRIMARILY TO DEMONSTRATE/SUPPORT FOR METU STUDENT BODY DEMANDS AT ANKARA AND ALSO TO OBTAIN REDRESS OF LOCAL STUDENT COMPLAINTS.

2. LAST 48 HOURS HAVE WITNESSED AT LEAST TWO NON-VIOLENT INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT OF UNIFORMED U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL PASSING BY ONE OF THE BOYCOTTED AEGEAN UNIVERSITY FACULTIES (ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL FACULTY) BY WHAT APPEARED BE LOITERING STUDENTS. WE INCLINED AGREE WITH TNP SOURCES

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THIS PROBABLY DUE TO ACTIVIST TEMPER PRECIPATED BY PRESENT

BOYCOTT; THIS CAMPUS CLOSE TO NATO AND U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES AND SIMILAR INCIDENTS HAVE NOT RPT NOT OCCURRED DURING PRECEDING SEVERAL WEEKS.

3. EVENING OF NOV. 6 PRODUCED FIRST VIOLENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN WHAT APPEARS HAVE BEEN ABOUT 250 LEFTIST-LED STUDENTS AND POLICE SINCE OPENING OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR. (PREVIOUSLY CLASHES WHEREIN POLICE INTRODUCED WERE BETWEEN RIGHT AND LEFT WING STUDENTS WITH POLICE

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INTERVENING TO RESTORE ORDER.) REPORTEDLY, LEFT-WING STUDENTS AT BUCA (SUBURB OF IZMIR) ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SCHOOL STAGED IMPROMPTU MARCH TO BUCA SQUARE WHERE THEY ENCOUNTERED POLICE VOLKSWAGON; POLICE TOLD THEM TO STOP THEIR MARCH (FOR WHICH STUDENTS DID NOT HAVE A PERMIT) AND SOME STUDENTS BEGAN STONING THE POLICE CAR. RIOT POLICE WERE SUMMONED AND 51 STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED. NO INJURIES REPORTED.

4. DESPITE YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT, CLASSES RESUMED TODAY (NOV. 7) AS SCHEDULED, BUT ATTENDANCE REPORTEDLY LOW, REPORTEDLY RANGING FROM 20-40 PERCENT.

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